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Reviews.

The Women of the American Revolution.—By Elizabeth Ellet.—New York: Baker & Scribner.

PEOPLE have not yet learned so to regard it, but it was a picturesque period, that of the American Revolution; socially viewed most singularly picturesque. Go back to a ball in New York seventy-five ago—the season shall be June when the summer fêtes were given by the gay Manhattanese to their southern visitors—the Virginians and Carolinians, who would often divide their midsummer visits between the boarding-houses of Newport, and the hospitable mansions of the wealthy New Yorkers of that day. New York, inferior then to Philadelphia in commerce, but quaint from its ancient business mart of old peaked Dutch houses, huddled together amidst a compact labyrinth of narrow streets and alleys—striking again from its dozen or so noble mansions (of which the Walton House in Pearl street is now the last surviving specimen), and beautiful from its garden suburbs, its airy country-houses, covering the broadest part of the island, its green hillocks tufted with orchards, its numerous brooks winding beneath old elms in the meadows, or shaded by dark cedars, when they cleave their way through the slate rock of the upland—New York, or that part of the island rather, which is now covered with solid squares of masonry, was one of the loveliest seaport towns to be found the wide world over. Thus is it described in the letters of the times, and thus does it appear in the few drawings which survive, of the town and its environs, from the Battery to Murray Hill—the present site of the distributing reservoir. Here, at that time for half a century, had been the British head-quarters in America; and here while the wealthy would import their clothes from London, and send to Philadelphia to purchase their gloves, stockings, and handkerchiefs of the better quality—here was the provincial court, where the rich quaker, the substantial puritan, the gay Carolinian, and the equipage-loving Virginian, delighted to rendezvous in the season of strawberries, to keep up that social interchange which existed to an extraordinary degree among the leading families of the colonies in every state. A point, by the way, which has never been sufficiently dwelt upon by the historians, and which in the great division of whig and tory parties now just at hand, had a most important effect alike in hurrying forward and in retarding the revolution in different neighborhoods.

Go back, then, to a ball of that day, and see “the women of the revolution” as they there presented themselves. The rich brocades, hoarded in many an enormous old hair trunk, still show how our gay grandmothers dressed in those days. Their ostrich plumes, and even the setting of their prodigal jew-

elry are piously preserved by some—while their plain caps, short gowns, and kerchiefs for morning wear—proofs of their domestic simplicity, lie side by side with the more showy mementoes of the pageantry of “Vanity Fair.” But the substratum of character extends farther than externals. As yet there are no French Boarding Schools, and those high-heeled dames who walk minuets—the grace of the *vieille cour*, are at a loss to follow the half-whispered French of the British staff officer, who is commenting upon the Provincials in the ear of some European lady. But the home-bred American girl, although having no governess but her mother, shared in all the instructions imparted by her brother’s private Tutor—and the impertinence of the Oxonian is arrested by the merry remarks of the elustering colonist belles, who cut him up in as fluent Latin as he ever heard within the walls of his college; while one of their number, familiar also with the fashionable tongue in which he had attempted to conceal his strictures from these “half educated colonists,” mocks him by translating his French into Latin for the amusement of her laughing companions, until the vexed beau is overwhelmed with confusion and apologizes to the group in the name of all their countrywomen (Facts!).

Years pass on. In 1765, the fathers and brothers of all that assemblage of beautiful women have committed themselves to the world as partisans of “the inalienable rights of British Freeman”—all are ready to shed their blood for the political axiom that “Taxation without Representation is Tyranny.” Ten years more pass away! And then the Declaration of Independence creates on the instant a new array of parties. And where now stand the survivors of that gay assemblage?

Mrs. Ellet must write another book to bring out the women of the American Revolution in their true colors. Those accomplished and high-spirited mothers and daughters are not the women to be mob-driven wherever their lot be cast. East, west, north, and south, they have divided from each other; but (unlike men) they have divided not in consonance with “public opinion” in either of their several districts; nay, woman-like, they have hardly divided even upon any clear ground of principle. A *sentiment*, or rather two opposing sentiments, have been flung as the first fruits of political discord among them. It is the spirit of *Loyalty* and the spirit of *Patriotism* now first directly confronted with each other throughout the land that severs old friendships between the leading minds among them, while the majority, of course, espouse the side which their husbands, brothers, and lovers, have already chosen.

Of the Loyalist women of the American Revolution scarcely anything has yet been written; yet historical letters are full of hints of the important part they played in the affairs of the time, while many may be remembered long after the revolution from their

active share in building up the new public charities in our different cities. We can ourselves remember some of the most energetic as snuff-taking octogenarians, still fresh in every feeling of interest for the public good under the existing order of affairs, while cherishing a perverse tenderness for the day of small things in America—when Major André wrote verses and painted drop-scenes for the John street theatre.

Of the Patriot women of the American Revolution the public know far more, and yet a work like that now presented by Mrs. Ellet has been urgently needed to call together the scattered records of their services, and embalm their memories where they will be collectively preserved. Our copious extracts have already shown our readers the quality of the book, which we rejoice to hear is likely to be followed by another volume from the same pen, the author being still engaged in her most interesting researches. If Mrs. Ellet could but light upon a mass of correspondence like that of the late venerable Mrs. Startin, with some of the leading minds of Europe, which was destroyed in MS. only a summer or two since, she would rescue invaluable matter from oblivion. Nor can “the Women of the Revolution” be known to us until these evidences of their minds, when brought in contact with other minds, shall reveal their intellectual force and moral character, on whichever side their energies were displayed.

The time ought now to have arrived when we shall write of our Revolution as a civil war, so far as our own countrymen are concerned, and deal with them in history precisely as an Englishman would with those who fought on opposite sides in his country from the days of the battle of Hastings to those of Marston Moor. The idea is not yet beaten into the heads of our countrymen, that the acts of American Tories, whether gallant or atrocious, are just as much a part of American history, and as illustrative of the character of the American people, as are the acts of the Whigs. The gallantry of the Delancys, as bold partisans and stark troopers; the soldierly precision of Watts and other infantry officers, fighting against the continentals, belong just as intimately to the military history of New York as does the career of any opposing Buenos Ayrean chieftain, for instance, to the history of his country, no matter upon which side success may ultimately fall. Nor can we have any genuine history of our great civil war—any history which shall be a true exposition of the character of our countrymen, and illustrative of the formation of the Republic—until the conduct, the deeds, the motives, and principles of Americans on both sides are detailed and expounded as impartially as one would write about the wars of the Roses in England.

Why will not MR. COOPER undertake a history of the Revolution on this basis?

But, with regard to the women of that era, whatever is written must be soon written for,

the whole system of female education is changing, and has changed so essentially, that the sentiments, impulses, and feelings of their great-grandmothers must soon become so unintelligible as to require an interpretation to the progress-hearts of their great granddaughters.

They were great women (said an octogenarian once in our hearing); certainly they were great women! How could it be otherwise? For all the feeble ones among their grandmothers died off from the sufferings that pioneers endure. It was only the high-strung minds, the fervid temperaments, and healthy constitutions of the early settlers, which came down to the native-born women of the American Revolution.

Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society. Vol. III., No. 2. Newark: James Ross.

This pamphlet contains the proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society, at its last meeting, with some of the papers and correspondence laid before it on that occasion. Among these we notice an interesting Memoir of that Soldier of the Cross and of the Sword, the Rev. James Caldwell; whose active and efficient co-operation with the patriots of the Revolution in connexion with the tragical termination of his career, has so intimately associated his name with the trials, dangers, and sufferings of that eventful period.

The author of the paper, the Rev. Dr. Murray, of Elizabethtown, has embodied in a succinct, yet comprehensive narrative, the chief events of Mr. Caldwell's life, and presented clearly the prominent traits of his character. Among other circumstances detailed, indicative of the warmth of his devotion to the cause of liberty and the energy of his character, there are some which we believe have never before appeared in print. We have space only for three or four:—

"High rewards, it is said, were offered for his capture, and to avoid the dangers to which he was constantly exposed from the Tories and the enemy then in the possession of Staten Island and New York, he removed his residence to Connecticut Farms, where it continued until his death. Such were his own apprehensions, and those of his friends, that he usually went armed; and, after the burning of his Church, when preaching in what is yet spoken of as the Old Red Store, he was often seen to disencumber himself of a pair of pistols and lay them by his side.

"On the attack upon Springfield on the 25th of June, 1780, he was present and, in every way he could, encouraging the troops. It is said that during the conflict the wadding of a company of soldiers failed—Caldwell flew to the Presbyterian Church, then under the care of the Rev. Mr. Van Arsdale, father of the late Elias Van Arsdale of Newark, a distinguished member of the Essex bar, and filling his pockets and his arms with Watts' Psalms and Hymns, rode back to the Company, scattering them among them; crying out, as he flung one here and another there, '*Now, put Watts into them, boys.*'"

If this last anecdote be not apocryphal, it may be thought there was some reason for applying to him the appellation given in what follows:

"The following anecdote is related of him and his devoted friend and pious parishioner, Abraham Clark, whose name is yet familiar to the people of East Jersey, as Congress Abraham. Over the door of the office of Caldwell in Chatham, were the letters D. Q. M. G., being the initials of Deputy Quarter Master General. Perceiving Mr. Clark approaching the door he

went to meet him, and found him intently gazing upon the above letters. 'What,' said he, 'are you looking at so earnestly?' 'I am looking,' replied Clark, 'at those letters, and I am striving to comprehend what they mean.' 'Well, what do you think they mean?' asked Caldwell. 'I cannot conceive,' replied his friend, 'unless they mean "Devilish Queer Minister of the Gospel." The anecdote shows the great familiarity between the men; and after a hearty laugh over the joke, the pious patriots took counsel together as to the affairs of the state and nation.

"He was of middling size and strongly framed. His countenance had a pensive, placid cast; but when excited was exceedingly expressive of resolution and energy. His voice was sweet and musical, but yet so strong that when needful he would make himself heard above the noise of the drum and the life. As a preacher he was uncommonly eloquent and pathetic; rarely preaching without weeping himself; and at times would melt his whole audience into tears."

When summing up the character of Mr. Caldwell, Dr. Murray remarks:—

"He was a man of such unwearied activity, that no amount of bodily or mental labor could fatigue him. Feelings of the most glowing piety and of the most fervent patriotism occupied his bosom at the same time, without the one interfering with the other. He was one day preaching to the battalion, the next providing the ways and means for their support, the next marching with them to battle; if defeated, assisting to conduct their retreat; if victorious, offering their united thanksgiving to God; and the next, offering the consolations of the gospel to some dying parishioner, or pouring the oil of consolation into the wounds of the afflicted. Down to the present hour, the aged ones speak of him with tearful emotion. Never was a pastor more affectionately remembered by a people. * * * * * He would not be a tory—he could not be a neutral, his temperament forbade it—and the principles which led him to defend his country also taught him to defend himself. The foolish principles of 'non-resistance' were yet unborn. And he belonged to a class of ministers who, almost to a man, considered it their duty to God to aid their country in every way possible in the existing struggle; some of whom raised their own companies and marched at their head to meet the enemy. * * * * *

"We owe the freedom of this country to the religious ministers of the country. *If the ministers of the country had taken boldly the ground assumed by some, that there could not be a state without a king, the lion and the unicorn guarding the crown would have been the emblem of our sovereignty until the present hour.*"

While we accord to the patriotic Presbyterian divines of that day all the praise and commendation which Dr. Murray or any other admirer can claim for them, we must express our opinion that some lack of charity is manifested towards the clergymen of the Church of England, at that time in the colonies, in the passage which we have printed in italics.

It is true that, as a body, they were either neutral in the contest—the case with the greater number—or ranged on the side of royalty; for, receiving their ordination from the hands of the prelates of the established church—bound to the use of its liturgy, including necessarily the appointed prayers for the king and royal family—and subordinate, as they were, to the Bishop of London,—there was a double allegiance operating in their case to prevent a disruption of the ties that united them to the mother country. But there were among them, nevertheless, many eminent examples of devotedness to the colonial cause. The first chaplain to Congress was Mr. Duché, an Episcopal Clergyman; William White,

Bishop of Pennsylvania, was appointed to that office in September, 1797; Bishop Provost of New York, and many others, were earnest advocates of liberty and independence; some of them amid the active duties of the tented field.

But to make up for the paucity in numbers, enlisted in the cause, of those whose ministerial pursuits probably had not in many cases fitted them for the prominence assumed by Mr. Caldwell in the more stirring scenes of warfare, there was a multitude of a similar religious faith whose course was not restricted by ordination vows or declarations, and upon whom the influence of "all the ministers of the country" would have proved powerless had it been exerted for the retention of "the lion and the crown" as the representatives of the sovereignty of the country.

When the fact is made known that Washington, Madison, Moultrie, Sumpter, Morgan, Rutledge, Laurens, Monroe, the Lees, the Randolphs, almost all indeed of the prominent leaders of the Southern States; with Hamilton, Franklin, Jay, the Morris, Livingstons, Duers, Duanes, and a host of others in the Middle States, were by birth or preference Episcopalians, accustomed to the services and attached to the Liturgy of that denomination of Christians, no other refutation is needed of any charge of lukewarmness on the part of such as entertained those religious opinions in advancing the colonial cause or upholding the republican institutions, which were the result of the successful revolution.*

We have said that there were not wanting clergymen of the Church of England who, like Mr. Caldwell, mingled in the strife. One instance, which has come to us well authenticated, we will specify.

On the breaking out of the Revolution, Dr. C., who was settled in one of the interior counties of Virginia, adopted the popular cause. Giving to his opinions, openly avowed, the additional weight of his influence and example, he raised and equipped a troop of horse, and fitted therefor by a herculean frame and martial bearing, assumed the command himself.

His vestry were not equally well affected towards the rebels, and were disposed to doubt the propriety of his appearing in his clerical robes on Sunday, to inculcate the truths of the Gospel of Peace, and on Monday to don the habiliments of a soldier, and manœuvre a military corps. Finding remonstrances ineffectual, they requested him to resign; but this he declined. His services were acceptable to the congregation, no complaint could be brought of any neglect of duty, and so long as in his conduct he gave no cause of scandal to the Church, he considered it obligatory upon him to continue his connexion with the parish.

At last, at a meeting of the vestry, so violent became the controversy, so harsh the language addressed to him, that the man triumphed over the minister—their censure was returned in no measured terms, and, rising in his might, like Samson of old, he scattered his enemies, inflicting upon them the personal chastisement he thought they merited. His most determined opponent he seized by his whiskers with one hand, while he pommelled

* We would bring to the notice of such of our readers as feel an interest in the subject here adverted to, a Centennial Discourse, preached in Trinity Church, Newark, by the Rev. Matthew H. Henderson, M.A., in which, having occasion to refer to some ill-judged accusations of a prevalence of an Anti-republican spirit in the Episcopal Church, the Reverend Author has brought together much interesting matter respecting the religious preferences of the worthies of the Revolution. The sermon was noticed in our columns soon after it was issued. It is one of the best of its class.

him soundly with the other, and obtained a complete victory over the whole body.

Such an event naturally excited much remark, and, notice having been given to that effect, the whole community availed themselves of an early opportunity afforded them of going to the Church to hear the Doctor's explanation. The building was crowded, the famous Troop of Horse, in full uniform, constituting an interesting feature in the audience. The Doctor went regularly through the service for the day, and ascending the pulpit, announced as his text—Nehemiah xiii. part of 23th verse—"And I contended with them, and cursed them, and smote certain of them, and plucked off their hair, and made them swear by God." From this very applicable passage, he preached a serious exculpatory discourse, placing himself right before his people, and silencing all opposition to his proceedings.

Dr. C. continued in command of his troop, and served in one or more campaigns at the South, among all the trials and temptations of partisan warfare, retaining the respect and esteem of all who knew him. He finally returned to his parish, resumed his parochial duties, and officiated in his old church until his death. In the words of Dr. Murray—

"May the names of the ministers of the gospel who aided in securing for our country the freedom which it enjoys, ever live in the memory of a grateful people!"

PROGRESS OF ETHNOLOGY IN THE UNITED STATES.

[HOWEVER SLOW our transatlantic neighbors may be to admit the claims of American Literature, they have been ready (we will not say *compelled*) to recognise, and, in many instances, to defer to American Science. And while there seems to have been a distrust among the strictly literary men on the opposite shores of the Atlantic, too often poorly disguised, the men of science of both Europe and America, for the last half century, have, to use a current term, cordially fraternized. This may have resulted to some extent from the more general intercourse, personal or otherwise, kept up between them. We have a present proof of the truth of our remark in an article in the September number of the *British Ethnological Journal* (edited by LUKE BURKE, Esq.), under the head of "Progress of Ethnology in the United States." This article pays a high compliment to the men of this country engaged in archaeological and ethnological researches, and justly regards them as contributing their full share to this department of science. We believe the following passages, from the article in question, will be read with interest, not only as showing the value which is attached to American investigations abroad, but also as affording a very complete view of what has been done, and is now doing here, in this department.]

Crania Ægyptiaca: or Observations on Egyptian Ethnography, derived from Anatomy, History, and the Monuments. By Samuel George Morton, M.D., author of "*Crania Americana*."

Ancient Egypt: her Monuments, Hieroglyphics, History, and Archæology. By Geo. R. Gliddon, late U. S. Consul at Cairo.

The Progress of Ethnology; an account of recent Archæological, Philological, and Geographical Researches in various parts of the Globe, tending to elucidate the Physical History of Man. By John Russell Bartlett.

The Races of Man, and their Geographical Distribution. By Charles Pickering, M.D. Forming the IX. volume of the U. States Exploring Expedition.

Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi Valley: comprising the results of extensive Surveys and Explorations. By E. G. Squier, A.M., and E. H. Davis, M.D.

It is not our purpose, in the present paper, to present our readers with a systematic article on the subject of American Ethnology. We merely intend to give a brief notice of some important works which have just been laid be-

fore us, and of some interesting facts connected with them, which are little known in this country. We should have been glad on several accounts to have deferred our remarks for another month, so as to have had time to do something like justice to the subject, but as *news* is an article that will not very well bear keeping, we think our readers will be better pleased to have a hasty sketch at the present moment, than wait a month for a more elaborate paper.

For the materials of the present article, we are in a great measure indebted to the kindness, and love of science, of George R. Gliddon, Esq., author of "*Ancient Egypt*," and formerly United States Consul at Cairo. Mr. Gliddon, as we have elsewhere mentioned, has been the bearer to us of some highly encouraging and flattering communications from distinguished American Ethnologists, and has besides brought under our notice, several interesting recent contributions to Ethnology, and two important works, not yet published. From these writings, and the oral information communicated by our friend, we learn with the greatest pleasure that Ethnology is exciting a vivid interest in the United States, and that its advocates entertain enlightened views upon the subject, and are prepared to receive and carry out whatever can be shown to be the truth, irrespective of conventional prejudices. This, in the present state of Ethnology, would be a great deal, were it all, but they have not contented themselves with this, they have come forward as original investigators, in some of the most important departments of the subject; and it must be admitted that, thus far, they have accomplished their several tasks in a manner honorable to themselves, and highly advantageous to the cause of science. America is one of the most important Ethnological regions in the world. The interest of its natural history is obvious, but its archæology possesses a still higher interest, at the present moment. The time has passed for looking upon this continent as a new world. Every step in investigation reveals some impress of the remotest times, and the question will soon be, whether it was the *first*, or only *one of the first* centres of high civilization. We are delighted, therefore, to find that American Ethnologists are so fully alive to the importance of their national monuments, and so anxious to rescue them from the oblivion in which they have lain for so many ages.

Dr. Morton is justly regarded as the father of American Ethnology, and our sketch of the recent advances which this science has made in the United States, naturally commences with him. His great work, "*Crania Americana*," has long enjoyed a European, as well as an American reputation, and needs no comment on the present occasion, though we shall often have to speak of it in the course of our labors. His "*Crania Ægyptiaca*," however, though published in 1844, and therefore doubtless well known to some of our readers, is so intimately connected with our present topic, and so interesting in itself, that we must speak of it a little more in detail.

The foundation of this work is a collection of one hundred and thirty seven human crania procured for Dr. Morton by Mr. Gliddon, during his various travels in Egypt and Nubia. These skulls have been carefully compared, not only with each other, but also with various human representations on the monuments generally, and the work before us gives us the results which Dr. Morton has deduced from these comparisons. He first divides the collection into two ranges, the *Caucasian* and the *Negro*, the former being again subdivided into

three principal types, the *Pelasgic*, the *Semitic*, and the *Egyptian*. [A variety of quotations follow, which are necessarily omitted.]

The crania are next arranged into seven series, according to their sepulchral localities, and then individually analysed. We need not inform those who have seen the *Crania Americana*, that this analysis is most carefully and conscientiously performed. Dr. Morton writes in a simple, perspicuous, and straightforward style, and with such an obvious impartiality, that his work at once inspires the fullest confidence. Every skull is separately, though briefly described, and the greatest part of them are illustrated with carefully executed plates. Nor is the work confined to the study of these crania. A multitude of drawings are also given from the monuments, as illustrative of a brief, but highly interesting disquisition on the general ethnography of Egypt, and the races immediately connected with it.

The work before us is decisive as to the question of the Caucasian or Negro origin of the Egyptians. Out of a hundred crania taken from various parts of the country, only *one* was of pure Negro type, and only eight of the *Negroid*, or that mixed type in which Negro peculiarities predominate. Of the remainder, forty-nine were Egyptians, twenty-nine *Pelasgic*, six *Semitic*, five mixed, and two were skulls of idiots. This result is not only fully borne out by the monuments, but equally so by the crania and mummies collected in various European Museums.

These two valuable works of Dr. Morton, the papers he has contributed to the transactions of different societies, and his general efforts in the cause of science, have necessarily had a powerful influence in forming the present school of American Ethnologists, and we are happy to learn that he is still laboring diligently, and adding to his magnificent collection of crania, with the purpose of doing for some other quarters of the world, what he has already done for America and Egypt.

Had we not, for reasons already assigned, determined to confine the present notice to the works actually before us, we should here have to mention with approbation, several other American writers who have contributed to the progress of Ethnology, and in an especial manner, Mr. Gallatin, whose philological researches are of the highest value. We must observe, however, in passing, that this gentleman, as we learn from Mr. Bartlett's "*Progress of Ethnology*," is preparing for publication, a memoir on the Indian tribes beyond the Rocky Mountains, and particularly those along the shores of the Pacific Ocean, from California to Behring's Straits, with comparative vocabularies of their languages. Mr. Hale, too, Philologist of the United States Exploring Expedition, has made a valuable contribution to the Ethnology of this region, in his work on "*Ethnology and Philology*," which forms the seventh volume of the United States Exploring Expedition.

We must now pass on to the next work on our list, viz. Mr. Gliddon's "*Ancient Egypt*." It is somewhat anomalous to class this gentleman among American Ethnologists, for he is an Englishman himself, and his work is a purely Archæological treatise; still his scientific labors have had so intimate a connexion with America, and his work has so direct a bearing on Ethnology, that we may, with great propriety, on the present occasion at least, include him among the American contributors to the progress of our science. The work before us contains the substance of seven Lec-

tures, delivered in Boston in the winter of 1842-43. At that period, even the scientific men of America were, generally speaking, unacquainted with the more recent discoveries of Egyptian Archaeologists. Mr. Gliddon's lectures therefore excited, from the commencement, the greatest interest. It could not well have been otherwise, indeed, for this gentleman possesses an enthusiasm and love for his subject which is quite infectious, and his manner of communicating information is clear, forcible, and popular, besides which, his lectures were illustrated with a magnificent collection of fac-simile paintings of all sorts of Egyptian subjects. Mr. Gliddon subsequently lectured in the principal cities of the United States, and not only gave a powerful impulse to the study of Egyptian Antiquities in that country, but was also greatly instrumental in breaking down the theological prejudices that existed on several important matters. That his labors were appreciated, is obvious from the fact, that the work before us is in its tenth edition; the previous ones having each consisted of several thousand copies. Of this work we can at present speak in general terms only. It is exceedingly interesting, and written in such a manner as to be perfectly intelligible, even to persons entirely unacquainted with the subjects of which it treats. It possesses also one other very great excellence, viz. copious references to all the best and latest works upon the subject of Egyptian Antiquities. It is, therefore, particularly valuable to those who wish to commence this study, or to bring up their knowledge to the present time; as also to such as wish to obtain a mere popular insight into Egyptian subjects. Were we giving a regular criticism of the work, we should be disposed to quarrel a little with the author for the disrespectful terms in which he speaks of our old friend, Herodotus, as well as for one or two hypotheses which he advances, in order to shield the Hebrew chronology from the destruction with which his facts perpetually threaten it. On the latter points, however, Mr. Gliddon has fully made amends, for in a prospectus of a new series of Lectures, dated Philadelphia, 1846, and stitched with the present work, he announces, on the authority of recent hieroglyphical researches, that his former *approximate* date of the era of Menes, viz. B. C. 2750, was no longer tenable, several distinguished continental scholars having carried it far higher. Bunsen has placed it in 3643 B. C., Barucci in 4890, Henry in 5303, Böckh in 5702, and Lesueur equally early, so that matter will soon be settled. Our limits will not permit us to say more at present than that this work contains, amongst numerous other things deserving of attention, a lucid and highly interesting account of the origin, progress, and present state of hieroglyphical learning.

Mr. Bartlett's "Progress of Ethnology" is also a work of great interest to the student. It gives the statistics of Ethnological discovery for the last few years, and not only lays before the reader the principal results arrived at, but also by its copious references to books, directs him to the sources from which more complete information may be derived. To such Ethnologists as have not a ready access to recent works, and especially to the Transactions of learned societies, both at home and abroad, the present treatise must be of the greatest value, for within the brief space of 150 pages, it presents us with a very large mass of most interesting and important facts.

"The Races of Man and their Geographical Distribution," by Charles Pickering, M.D., is

a handsome quarto of 447 pages, and forms the ninth volume of the United States Exploring Expedition. It is a distinct and systematic work, though, in its subordinate arrangements, its narrative conforms, in general, to the course of the Expedition. Of this important work we can give, at present, but a very superficial notice. Its extent, and the limited time at our disposal since it was placed in our hands, have prevented our perusing more than certain portions of it.

Dr. Pickering recognises *eleven* distinct races of men, and this fact alone communicates a great deal of originality to his treatment of his subject. We have often had occasion to remark, as a very general rule, that systematic works on Ethnology are exact and discriminating, as well in their selection of facts, as in their arguments, in proportion to the number of races which they admit. Those who contend for three races have a great advantage over the advocates of unity of origin, while the work before us is an evidence of the superior precision which arises from the recognition of a still higher number. But even this number falls far short of the requisitions of the case, and compels us to confound in one class, races which, viewed in the totality of their peculiarities, are most broadly contradistinguished. Dr. Pickering does not, as far as we have seen, expressly state that he regards his eleven races as distinct *ab initio*, though this seems clearly implied in the following passage. "The existence of races, it should be observed, is a phenomenon independent of climate. All the physical races that occur in cold regions can be traced by continuity to the Tropics; where, moreover, we find other races in addition."—Page 12. Probably he had no wish to agitate this *rexta questio*, and therefore preferred to write merely as a naturalist, leaving untouched the philosophy of the matter. The following is his classification of races:—

"a. White.

"1. *Arabian*.—The nose prominent, the lips thin, the beard abundant, and the hair straight or flowing.

"2. *Abyssinian*.—The complexion hardly becoming florid, the nose prominent, and the hair crisped.

"b. Brown.

"3. *Mongolian*.—Beardless, with the hair perfectly straight and very long.

"4. *Hottentot*.—Negro features, and close woolly hair; and the stature diminutive.

"5. *Malay*.—Features not prominent in the profile; the complexion darker than in the preceding races, and the hair straight or flowing.

"c. Blackish-brown.

"6. *Papuan*.—Features not prominent in the profile; the beard abundant, the skin harsh to the touch, and the hair crisped or frizzled.

"7. *Negrilla*.—Apparently beardless; the stature diminutive, the features approaching those of the Negro, and the hair woolly.

"8. *Indian or Telingan*.—The features approaching those of the Arabian, and the hair in like manner straight or flowing.

"9. *Ethiopian*.—The complexion and features intermediate between those of the Telingan and Negro; and the hair crisped.

"d. Black.

"10. *Australian*.—Negro features, but combined with straight or flowing hair.

"11. *Negro*.—Close woolly hair; the nose much flattened, and the lips very thick."—Page 10.

Most readers will have various objections to

make against these arrangements; but many of these objections will find a satisfactory answer in the work itself, and it would be unfair to reject a theory without hearing the evidence adduced in its favor. Few, probably, are prepared to admit much affinity between the Malay races and the nations of America, for instance, and yet Dr. Pickering has satisfactorily established a very close connexion in physical peculiarities, manners, and customs, between the natives of California and the Polynesian family, which is almost universally regarded as a branch of the Malay race; and similar remarks are applicable to many other positions which might, at first sight, appear wholly untenable. For ourselves, our views of animal classification are so much more rigorous than any that have hitherto been adopted by naturalists, that we have, of course, numerous objections to make to all portions of Dr. Pickering's arrangements, but our views bear the same relation to almost all systematic treatises, and therefore they form no criterion by which to judge of the work before us. Apart from these differences between our respective systems, we have been greatly pleased with what we have seen of this work. It is evidently the production of a calm, dispassionate, intelligent, and conscientious observer, and presents in various parts, a very original and interesting grouping of facts. Somewhat more than half the work is taken up with an account of the various races enumerated above, and the remainder is devoted to a series of chapters under the following heads. Numerical proportions and relations between the races; geographical progress of knowledge; migrations by sea and land; origin of agriculture; zoological deductions; introduced plants of America, Polynesia, and equatorial Africa; antiquities, and introduced animals and plants of Hindostan; and, finally, introduced animals and plants of Egypt. This whole subject of the geographical distribution of animals and plants, is highly interesting and important, and the last two sections of it especially so. Altogether, this is a very valuable work, speaking only from what we have seen of it; and as we have dipped into various portions, always with pleasure, and generally with profit also, the probabilities are, that our commendations are very inadequate to its real merits.

We now come to the "Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi Valley," by E. G. Squier and E. H. Davis, a work, which, to judge from what is before us, promises to be one of the most important contributions to Archaeology which has appeared for some time. In making this statement we speak in some degree in reference to our views of American antiquities. Those who regard these works as comparatively recent, and the production of merely semi-barbarous tribes, must of course attach less importance to them than we do, who fancy we see in them the relics of a great people, and of a most remote age; but whatever be the views entertained upon this point, every one interested in Archaeology must acknowledge the work before us to be a most important production. It brings to light a vast mass of most curious and unexpected facts, describes those facts lucidly and faithfully, classifies them with judgment, gives numerous and beautiful pictorial illustrations of many of them, and, in a word, provides an account which will not only gratify the merely curious, but also satisfy, as far as books and pictures can do, the requisitions of the scholar. Such is the impression we have received from the perusal of the portion of this work now before

us, the only portion we believe which has as yet crossed the Atlantic.*

[An extended notice of the plan of this work (which, it will be seen by reference to our advertising columns, is just published), together with copious extracts, some of which have appeared in this journal, is here omitted.]

Our space will not permit us to enter into particulars respecting these various kinds of structures, or their contents. A few general remarks are all that we have room for. The animal-shaped mounds are exceedingly remarkable, and, thus far, quite anomalous in Archaeology. Some of them would seem to be connected with religion, but the destination of others is wholly uncertain. Of the other mounds, some were destined for sepulture, and others for purposes of worship; and it is singular that warlike instruments are not found in the former, but only ornaments and domestic utensils. These consist of pearls, shells, silver, copper, stone, &c., various *terra-cottas*, and vases of pottery, which compare favorably with the best Peruvian specimens, and are far superior to any manufactured by the present Indian tribes. No iron has been found in the mounds, nor any inscriptions, though a tablet, apparently bearing a fragment of one, is said to have been discovered in the Grave Creek mound, in Virginia. Its authenticity has been very justly questioned. A great variety of articles in stone, ingeniously carved, have been discovered in the mounds. They are said to display a considerable deal of taste and skill, and to be remarkable for their truthfulness. They represent the various indigenous animals of the country, human heads, &c., &c. Arrow and lance heads, and other cutting instruments formed of the various kinds of quartz, are found in great abundance. Some are worked with exquisite skill, from pure, limpid crystals of quartz, others from crystals of magnesian garnet, and others from obsidian.

From the extract we have given above, the reader will perceive that the work is not confined to a mere description of the mounds actually explored by the Messrs. Squier and Davis. It is in fact a scientific treatise, in which all the information bearing upon the subject is collected from every accessible source. Judging therefore from what is before us, we expect to find in this work, when finished, as complete and comprehensive a view of this important department of Archaeology as the present state of knowledge will permit. Nor are we alone in this opinion. The work is published by the "Smithsonian Institution," and forms the first volume of the "*Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge*." Previous to its reception by this society, it was submitted to the inspection of a committee of the American Ethnological Society, consisting of Edward Robinson, D.D., John R. Bartlett, Professor W. W. Turner, Samuel G. Morton, M.D., and the Hon. George P. Marsh. These gentlemen gave a highly favorable report of the work, in which the President of the Society, the Honorable Albert Gallatin, entirely concurred. Dr. Morton, in a distinct recommendation, expresses himself in the following strong terms:—"I am convinced that this work constitutes by far the most important contribution to the Archaeology of the United States, ever yet submitted to the public;" and the Hon. Mr. Marsh, in a similar recommendation, says,—

* We may mention that a long and comprehensive paper, relating to the Antiquarian investigations of Messrs. Squier and Davis, appears in a late volume of the *Journal of the Geographical Society of France*, under the signature of M. Jomard, the venerable and eminent President of the Society. Similar notices have appeared in the German scientific publications.

"Rich as this age already is, in antiquarian lore, it has, I think, received few more important contributions than that which the enlightened and generous zeal of these two private gentlemen (Messrs. Squier and Davis) is about to confer upon it."

In a letter which we have received from Mr. Squier, dated New York, June 27th, that gentleman states that he expected the work to be out in about two months from that date, so that its appearance may soon be anticipated. He also informs us that it is his intention to follow it up with a supplementary memoir, in which the bearing of the new facts upon the grand Archaeological and Ethnological questions involved in the Ante-Columbian History of Man in America, will be fully discussed. This memoir, the result of his matured reflections, will, we doubt not, be extremely valuable.

Before we quit this topic, we may mention, for the benefit of those to whom the work under consideration will be inaccessible from its costliness, or for such as may be impatient for further information on this subject, that in the "Observations on the Aboriginal Monuments of the Mississippi valley," included in our lists of books received this month, Mr. Squier has given, in the brief space of some 80 pages octavo, a very interesting account of his discoveries, illustrated with plates and wood-cuts. The work is doubtless moderate in price, and may, we suppose, be obtained at once, in London.

In the exploration of the American monuments, Messrs. Squier and Davis have not been the only laborers. Dr. M. W. Dickeson has made extensive and important researches in the South-western States of the Union, especially in Mississippi. The only accounts we have before us of the labors of this gentleman, are contained in Mr. Bartlett's "*Progress of Ethnology*," and in some numbers of "*The Lotus*," a Philadelphia weekly periodical, lately established. Those latter, we have not been able as yet to examine, but Mr. Bartlett speaks in very high terms of the importance of Dr. Dickeson's labors, and states that he had laid open, or examined, one hundred and fifty mounds and tumuli of various dimensions, and collected a vast number of interesting relics. The monuments of the South-west vary somewhat, in their nature and contents, from those of the region especially examined by Messrs. Squier and Davis, and indicate a higher, or perhaps more correctly speaking, a later civilization, for genuine intellectuality is not always to be measured by the progress made in art and science. Among the contents of these mounds, we find mentioned, idols, clay stamps, mica mirrors, silver and copper ornaments, beads of jasper, chalcedony, agate, &c., similar to those found in Peru and Mexico, and several pearls of great beauty and lustre, *an inch in diameter*.

In dismissing, for the present, the subject of American Archaeology, we may venture to state, that the works before us have impressed us forcibly with one leading conclusion, viz.—that the civilization of the era of the mounds was long anterior to that to which we owe the great stone monuments of Central America, while we look upon this latter civilization as rivalling in antiquity that of ancient Egypt. The more facts accumulate around us, the more vast become the proportions of primeval civilization and empire, and the further do they stretch out into the night of time. America presents a noble field for research, and we doubt not that one department of it, at least, will be well and vigorously cultivated; but when may we expect laborers who will do for Yucatan, Mexico, and Peru, what Squier, Davis, and

Dickeson are doing for the great Mississippi region?

There is one very gratifying fact which we have learned in connexion with Ethnology, viz. that all the leading cultivators of the science are advocates of the doctrine of a plurality of Human Races. Whether this, in all instances, implies a belief in a plurality of origins, we are not prepared to say, but as prudence, in general, requires that unpopular opinions should be cautiously expressed, it is but natural to suppose that more hold this view than care to advocate it openly; still there are some whose independence and enthusiasm will not suffer them to be satisfied with giving an indirect support to what they deem an important principle, and amongst these, no one has lately attracted a greater share of attention than Dr. Nott, of Mobile. This gentleman gave, in 1844, two lectures on "the Natural History of the Caucasian and Negro races," in which he most vigorously and ably advocated the doctrine of aboriginal differences. This opinion coming from an eminent medical man, and expressed thus unequivocally, created a great sensation at the time, and some portions of the lectures having been misunderstood and misrepresented, the Lecturer, in self-defence, published them. They were, subsequently, severely criticised, in one of the leading periodicals. To this criticism, Dr. Nott returned so overwhelming a rejoinder, that no one has since ventured to assail either him or his principles. This controversy has been of signal service to the cause of independence, and has, besides, so vividly concentrated the attention of Dr. Nott on the subject of Ethnology, that we have reason to anticipate other and more important productions from his pen.

One more work remains to complete the catalogue of American productions placed before us. This is, "*An Investigation of the Theories of the Natural History of Man*, by Lawrence, Prichard, and others, founded upon Animal Analogies; and an outline of a *New Natural History of Man*, founded upon History, Anatomy, Physiology, and Human Analogies." By William Frederick Van Amringe. Our notice of this work must be reserved for another time, as its extent (about 740 pages octavo) rendered it impossible for us to examine it sufficiently to be able to give a just idea of its principles.

This hasty and very incomplete sketch, of the progress of our science in the United States, furnishes abundant matter for rejoicing, to all interested in this subject. The spirit of inquiry is now fully awakened, and the results already attained are of such importance, as not only to stimulate to increased efforts those already laboring, but also to call into the field new workers. We hope this rising enthusiasm will react favorably on this side of the Atlantic, and that the British Isles will not be much longer left without some comprehensive and systematic account of their primeval monuments. But what is to be expected from research, while men persuade themselves that the vast barrows of these islands were thrown up by the immediate ancestors of the painted savages whom Cæsar encountered! However, this creed cannot hold its ground much longer; when it passes away, with its kindred prejudice, a new era will dawn upon British Archaeology.

Works in Press.

[Extracts from "Frank Forester's Field Sports of the United States and British Provinces of America."]

SPRING SNIPE-SHOOTING.

(Concluded from last number.)

I FIRST observed this habit of the American Snipe, which is utterly at variance with the habit of its European congener, at the English Neighborhood, on the Hackensack River, where, by mere accident, I stumbled on a number of birds in the cowpaths, among thick brushwood, far above the salt meadows, towards the upland. I next found them in similar ground on a very wild day, at the end of March, or the beginning of April, on the Long Meadow at Pine Brook. On that occasion the birds were all busily employed in drumming,—a habit of the Snipe, as it is generally stated by naturalists, during the breeding season. I have myself, however, never witnessed it, except immediately on their arrival in this district, long before they had even begun to pair. The habit is, however, clearly connected with their nuptial and vernal propensities, and probably continues from the commencement of their sexual intercourse, to the end of their incubation. It is performed, I believe, solely by the male bird, which rises in the air till he is almost out of sight, where he disports him for hours in mid ether, sailing round and round in small circles, and at times letting himself fall, fifty feet or more, plumb down, before he again sails on his wing. It is during these perpendicular descents, that this strange, powerful, and musical hum is uttered,—it is comparable to no other sound that I can name, and must be heard to be conceived. It is very pleasing and sonorous, and may be distinguished at a great distance. Once heard, it can be mistaken for no other noise, made by either bird or beast,—nor will the sportsman be apt to forget it, as it is to him strangely ill-omened; for, while it is going on, birds will rarely or never suffer themselves to be approached within gunshot—rising, as soon as flushed, spirally into the air, each seeming to call up another by the sound, and sporting together aloft, "whirling round each other," to borrow the elegant language of Mr. Audubon, "with extreme velocity, and dancing as it were to their own music; for at this juncture, and during the space of five or six minutes, you hear rolling notes mingling together, each more or less distinct, perhaps according to the state of the atmosphere." I was surprised to find that Mr. Audubon here states his doubts, whether this sound is produced by the feathers of the wing—or rather almost asserts his conviction that it is ventriloquous. I have lain on the turf for hours, watching them when in this mood, and when all further attempt at pursuit of them would have been useless, and have observed their motions with a good glass. I am myself satisfied that the sound is produced by the fact, that the bird, by some muscular action or other, turns the quill-feathers edgewise, as he drops plumb through the air; and that, while in this position, during his accelerated descent, the vibration of the feathers, and the passage of the air between them, gives utterance to this wild humming sound.

Such likewise is the account given by European naturalists of the same sound which is produced by the Snipe there at the same vernal period; they mention, moreover, a peculiar cry of the male bird at this season, different from his shrill squeak, on being flushed, which is precisely identical in the American

and European species—this they describe as resembling the word "*Peet*," thrice repeated in a shrill whistle. This I never have noticed in the American birds; but, on two different occasions, when the birds were at the very wildest, drumming away for hours at a stretch, and not giving even a chance of a shot, I have observed another cry, which I cannot find recorded either by Wilson or Audubon, any more than the practice, by which it is accompanied, of alighting on fences, stumps, and even on tall tree-tops.

This cry is a sharp, reiterated chatter, consisting of a quick jarring repetition of the syllables, *kek-kek-kek-kek-kek*, many times in succession, with a rising and falling inflection, like that of a hen which has just laid an egg. This singular sound is uttered as the bird is descending from its gyrations and musical performances; and, after having descended, while it is skimming low over the surface of the bog meadows, previous to alighting. While in this humor, I have never seen them alight directly into the grass, but have invariably observed them to settle first on the stump of a dead tree, or on a rail fence, and thereafter drop into the rushes. On both of these occasions, the birds lighted many times on the very topmost branches of the willows, and other trees, which lined the fences; and on one occasion, I saw a Snipe take flight from a branch, rise upwards, and resume his drumming, without first returning to the level ground.

On the day when I first witnessed these performances, which astonished me, I confess, little less than it would have done had they begun to sing "*God save the King*," or "*Hail Columbia*," which would perhaps have been more appropriate—I observed that when, at length, they ceased drumming, which they did as the day grew hotter, they all flew off in one direction, toward some meadows over-run with brakes, cat-briers, brambles, and thorn bushes; and herein I had good sport with them for several hours, after having despaired, in the morning, of getting a shot at all.

Since that time, I have repeatedly found them in similar ground at Chatham, yet higher up on the course of the Passaic, where there is a great deal of covert of that particular nature—low stunted bushes, and brier patches, growing in boggy, springy ground. So notoriously is it the case that Snipe, on their first coming, *there frequent such localities*, whenever the weather is not more than commonly warm and genial, that it is the habit of many old sportsmen to beat for them regularly in such places, without trying the meadows at all, on their first arrival. I have killed hundreds of couples in such places; and have put up scores, at a small enumeration, of Woodcock, *then sitting on their eggs*, from the same coverts at the same time. Indeed, the same brakes, a little later in the season, afford the very best cock-shooting. Once, and once only, at the same place, Chatham, during a snow-squall, I shot several couple of Snipe in a very thick piece of swampy woodland, among tall timber-trees with heavy undercovert—precisely what one would call admirable summer Cock-ground—the Snipe flew in and out of the brakes, and thrived the branches, as rapidly as Quail or Cock would have done, in similar thickets. What has happened once, especially in the ways of animals, is likely to occur again; and I should not hesitate, when there was no tract of low springy underwood near at hand to Snipe meadows, to beat high wet woodlands for this bird, during the per-

manence of cold storms and violent winds, sufficient to drive them from the open fields. At all events, let the sportsman remember that in the Middle and Eastern States, bushy ground, brier-patches, alder and willow brakes, and the like, are as regular haunts of Snipe in spring, as bog tussocks or marshy meadows; and that there is no more propriety in his omitting to try such ground for them, than there would be in neglecting to beat thickets and dingles for Quail, because they ordinarily feed on stubbles.

While I am mentioning the peculiar habits of the American Snipe, such more particularly as it is not generally known to possess, I may observe that although not web-footed or even semi-palmated, this little bird swims rapidly and boldly. I was previously aware that, on falling wing-tipped into the water, it was able to support itself, and even to struggle away from a dog; but I had no idea that it would take the water of its own accord, till I was a witness to the fact under rather singular circumstances. I was standing still, loading my gun, both barrels of which I had just discharged, on the brink of a broad spring-fed ditch which runs along the lower side of the Long Meadow, when a bird, flushed by a friend at some distance, flew over my head and dropped within ten feet of me, on a spot of bare black soil, between two or three large grassy tussocks, and the ditch. I had never, at that time, observed the natural motions of the Snipe, when unalarmed; and I stood watching him, for some time, as he walked gracefully to and fro, and stooped down once or twice and bored in the mud, bringing up each time a small red angle-worm in his bill, utterly unconscious of my presence. After a minute or two, he deliberately entered the ditch, and oared himself across it, as easily and far more gracefully than any water-fowl could have done. I have since regretted, that I did not show myself at this moment, in order that I might have ascertained whether it possessed the power of taking wing from the surface of water, which I am greatly inclined to doubt. I was well aware previously of the fact, that many of the Shore-birds and Sand-pipers swim on emergency, but I little suspected the Snipe of possessing the like power.

I know not that the being acquainted with this habit of the Snipe can materially aid the sportsman; but, in case of dogs drawing on the trail of birds, which had run and fed, up to a brook-side, or on the foot of a wing-tipped bird, I should now certainly try forward, across the water, which I should not previously have done.

The peculiarities of cry, flight, and perching, which I have related above, are well known to many of our sportsmen here; and I can readily produce half-a-dozen witnesses to the various facts I have stated, within a dozen miles of the room in which I am now writing; as well as to the bird's occasional habit of resorting to the interior of woods, which Mr. Audubon positively asserts that he *never does*.

By the way, since penning the above, it just strikes me that in the spring of 1840, when the snow was not entirely off the Uplands, in shooting with a friend from Quebec, we moved three Snipe from a little piece of white-birch woodland, one of which was shot by my companion, and retrieved by my setter in the bushes, and a second of which I killed over a point in the next field, not very far from Lorette.

I am inclined to believe all these habits to be purely local, as concerns the American bird.

Not local, owing to any peculiar circumstance of the place, but of the seasons in which the bird visits or frequents the place. In other words, I suppose them all to be connected with the amorous and sexual intercourse of the birds, and to commence and terminate with the breeding season.

In the summer, when I have shot a few young birds during Cock-shooting, and in the autumn when I have killed five times as many as I have in spring, I never heard any cry from the Snipe except the regular "*scoipe*," nor have I ever seen it manifest the slightest inclination to alight on fence, rail, log, or tree. I therefore, suppose these habits to be, like drumming, peculiar to the season, and analogous to the circling and strutting of Doves, the fan-tailing of Peacocks, and the like. I should be curious to learn, however, from my Southern friends, who kill them during the winter in far greater numbers on their Georgia and Carolina rice fields than we can pretend to do on our barren bog meadows, whether they are ever known there either to take to woodland coverts, or to trees.

The English Snipe, I am certain, *never* does either, both from my own experience, and from the observation of many older and better sportsmen than myself. I have shot the English bird constantly, and for several successive springs, in the fens of Cambridge and Norfolk; and I have heard him *drum* there more frequently than I have here, but I never heard him chatter, or saw him take the tree; and I am certain that he never does so.

While speaking on this subject I must observe, again respectfully differing from Mr. Audubon, who asserts that "there is as great a difference between the notes of the English and American species of Snipe, as there is between the American Crow and the Carrion Crow of Europe," that in my opinion the cry of the two Snipes is *perfectly identical*; and in this view I am corroborated by the judgment of several English sportsmen, with whom I have habitually shot for many seasons here, and who, like myself, had killed hundreds of couples of Snipe, before visiting America. The number of feathers in the tail of the European and American species differs; and I am nearly certain that the English bird is somewhat larger and heavier—Wilson, who first distinguished the two species, notices the difference in size—but otherwise in appearance, and in all their ordinary habits, they are identical. I lay, however, great stress on the difference of note, in the breeding season, and in the other peculiarities alluded to, as setting the question of variety on a much broader and more distinct base, than the distinction between sixteen and fourteen tail-feathers, and an inch more or less in length.

Until I saw the American Snipe perch in tall trees, and heard them cackle like laying Pullets, I regarded the difference between the species as merely nominal. Every day since that time I have more clearly discerned its reality; and have in consequence learned to look for them, and find them too, where I should as soon have thought of hunting for an Ostrich as for a Snipe in England.

With regard to the habits of the bird in summer, I know little; but that little is enough to enable me to say that they are in no wise different from his autumnal customs. The Snipe returns to Lower Canada, from the northward, with the young birds full fledged in July, and is at that time, and until driven away by the frost, shot in immense numbers on the marshes at Chateau Richer, at Goose Island, and hundreds of other places down the

St. Lawrence. Along both shores of the Great Northern Lakes they abound, at the same time, or a little later; and accordingly as the season sets in early or late, so do they regulate their arrival with, and departure from, us. The earliest period at which I have ever killed migratory Snipe, birds I mean not bred here, is the 12th of September; when, in 1842, I bagged fourteen couple and a half in a deep bog-meadow at Chatham. The latest day, on which I have shot them is the 9th of November, at Pine Brook. I have been assured, however, by an excellent sportsman, on whose word I can fully rely, that he has killed them on a spring brook, in which the water never freezes in the hardest weather, daily, until the 19th of December. This was in Orange county, moreover, where the frost sets in at least a fortnight earlier than it does below the Highlands of the Hudson. The same gentleman, some years since, killed thirty-five Woodcock on the 13th day of December; a circumstance, so far as my knowledge goes, unparalleled in this region. There is, however, no possible doubt of the fact; as, being himself aware of its strangeness, he took unusual pains to verify it by sufficient evidence. There had been, if I do not err, a very early fall of snow, succeeded by hard frosts early in November, and after that, uncommonly mild and open weather.

In autumn Snipe-shooting there is nothing to be observed, except that the birds are more composed and less restless than in the spring; that, unless persecuted and driven from the ground by incessant shooting, they linger on the same meadows, until the coldness of the weather compels them to travel southward; that they lie much better to the dog, allowing themselves to be pointed steadily, and rarely flushing out of fair distance; and, to conclude, that they are much fatter, much larger, much easier to kill, and much better eating than in the spring season. I have never seen them in bushy ground, or even among briars, in the autumn, though I cannot state that they never take to such places.

Mr. Audubon states the weight of the American Snipe at 3 oz. The average weight of the English species is 4 oz. I never, but once, weighed any American birds. I was then struck by their apparently unusual size; when I weighed twenty-five together at the tavern at Pine Brook, and they averaged within a small fraction of 5 oz. each.

The Snipe is delicious eating, inferior to no bird that flies, save the Upland Plover and the Canvas-Back Duck. Like all birds that feed on, or near the water, he must be eaten *fresh*. A true gastronome abhors Woodcock, Snipe, or wild fowls, in the slightest degree *high*. Gallinaceous game are the better for keeping, wild fowl and waders are ruined by it. If possible they should be eaten within twenty-four hours after being killed.

Home Correspondence.

Boston. 18th September, 1848.

THE cool nights of September have come once more, and with them our migratory citizens are returning from the influence of the salt breezes of Newport and Nantasket, and the heat and dust of Saratoga, to the smoky atmosphere and crooked streets of the city. We meet nut-brown faces everywhere, and our eyes are filled with dust brushed by heedless housemaids from door-steps and window-blinds of houses which have been closed during the summer. Everything gives signs of returning

life. The calm which even political excitement has failed to disturb is at last broken. Political conventions and ratification meetings absorb the greater part of public attention. This is, of course, unfavorable to the cause of letters,—but even in this department there seems to have been some movement made since the Trade Sales. The usual number of strangers was attracted hitherward by the commencement at Harvard and the Phi Beta Kappa exercises on the following day. All who could get within hearing distance were delighted with the Rev. Dr. Bushnell's Oration, which was, in reality, a prose poem on the Philosophy of Work and Play,—and a production which will add much, even to his reputation. One of Boston's chiefest ornaments became the prey of a conflagration last week: the large and beautiful Roman Catholic Church at South Boston was entirely destroyed. The origin of the fire is unknown, but it has been generally attributed to an incendiary. Although it was built in the most substantial manner, of granite, it was so much injured that portions of the tower and walls have fallen in ruins. It contained one of the finest organs ever built in America, and Ball Hughes' celebrated statue—the "Dead Christ." If the pestilent knave who did this deed wished to gratify his *penchant* for burning churches, I could have pointed him out quite a number which it would gratify everybody who has an eye for the beautiful, to have put out of sight. For instance, there has just been erected a Methodist Chapel in Bromfield street, which is, without question, the worst looking building that the blessed Sun ever shone upon. The editor of the Morning Post classes it in the same order of architecture with Stimpson's Improved Cooking-Range. Certainly the architect who could design such an amorphous pile deserves to "suffer salvation, body and soul." For the caittiff to burn that elegant Church at South Boston, while this hideous affair remained aboveground, I hold to be an unpardonable offence against good taste, as well as a breach of moral propriety. Whatever may be the opinions of people concerning the doctrines of the Catholic Church, all will equally deplore the loss of so beautiful a building, considered as a work of art.

A gentleman of this city has favored me with the perusal of a letter from Mr. Samuel B. Stockwell, the Artist, conveying information of a highly interesting nature. Mr. Stockwell, whose name as a scenic artist ranks among the highest of the profession, is now at St. Louis, engaged upon an immense Panorama of the Mississippi River, from sketches made by his own hands. He has made accurate drawings of the scenery on both sides of the river, from the Gulf of Mexico to the Chippewa Nation, Minnesota Territory, and for the past eight months has been employed in transferring them to canvas. That it will be the *largest* panorama yet painted is apparent from the fact that no other artist has attempted to comprehend such an extent of country in one work; and any remarks that I might make upon the artistic skill with which it will be executed would be entirely superfluous. All who know Mr. Stockwell, either personally or by his works, know well what to expect of him in any undertaking which he commences. He expects to finish his labor in the course of the autumn, and the public, without doubt, will amply reward the modest and amiable artist for his exertions.

The Autumn Trade Sale, conducted by Messrs. Phillips and Sampson, was well at-

tended. The sales amounted to about seventy-five thousand dollars. Messrs. PHILLIPS & SAMPSON have just published an elegant volume, entitled the "Rosary of Illustrations," edited by the Rev. Edward E. Hale, of Worcester. It is embellished with a number of fine engravings, and the literary department is far above the level of common annuals.

Messrs. GOULD, KENDALL & LINCOLN have recently published a new volume of their series of juvenile books, entitled "Alfred in India," and in the course of this month will publish the concluding parts of Chambers' Miscellany. This work, which has been publishing in numbers for several months, will be neatly bound in ten volumes, when finished, and will make a miniature cyclopædia of knowledge, the comprehensiveness of which is only equalled by its cheapness. Messrs. G. K. & L. have also in press a History of the Revolutions in France from 1789 to the present time, by T. W. Redhead. This is also reprinted from the original edition published by the Messrs. Chambers, and will form three neat duodecimo volumes, the first part of which will be published in the course of a week. A book of this description has been much wanted since the last revolution took place; by that a fresh interest in the history of France was excited which comparatively few are able to gratify. It is impossible for those whose time is almost entirely occupied by business or labor, to devote their little leisure to the perusal of the voluminous works of Thiers, Alison, Lamartine, or Carlyle—you cannot reasonably expect them to do so; but none can plead an excuse for ignorance when the fruits of the labors of the best historians are set before them in a form which will tax neither their time nor their purses to an alarming extent. The fact that the book has been published by the Messrs. Chambers, is a sufficient guarantee for the faithfulness with which it has been compiled. Messrs. Gould, Kendall & Lincoln will also shortly publish a new volume of Discourses by the Rev. President Wayland, including, among several which have been published in a pamphlet form during the past two or three years, a number, on various topics, which have never before been given to the public.

Messrs. LITTLE & BROWN have recently published a fine reprint of the Essays on Political Economy of John Stuart Mill, a work which is attracting a great deal of attention in England at the present time. It is in two octavo volumes, and, if the fact of its being a reprint of an English work were only made manifest on the title page or elsewhere, it would be as handsome a library edition as could be desired. In the absence of a law, courtesy to the author, and to the English publishers, requires that this acknowledgment should be made.

"Euthanasia," the new book by Mr. Mountford, the author of "Martyria," which was announced a few weeks since, is passing rapidly through the press, and will be published about the first of October, by Messrs. CROSBY & NICHOLS. Mr. Mountford needs only to be known to be appreciated. He is an English dissenting clergyman, rather below the middle age, and a man of a high degree of mental cultivation and most delicate sensibility. Being naturally of a contemplative disposition, and in frail health, he is rather inclined to avoid society, and leads a secluded life among his books. He is a man who has been the victim of much worldly misfortune and disappointment, but the intense bodily sufferings of which he has been the subject, and the severe afflictions by which he has

been visited, have tended to produce in him a deep religious sentiment, and to develop the richest resources of a highly sensitive nature. The spirit which pervades his writings shows that he has been a close student of the English prose writers of the seventeenth century; indeed, I have often thought, while reading his writings, that the tattered calf of two centuries ago would be a much more appropriate garb for them, than the spruce black cambric of the present day. And he is not a mere imitator of the old masters of prose—in every page of his you will find the evidence of genuine, profound thought. Martyria is one of the most original books of the day, and Euthanasia cannot fail to add much to the reputation which that has built up for its author. It is printing here from the author's manuscript, under the care of a clerical gentleman of this city, to whom I am deeply indebted for a perusal of a large portion of the work, and also for some particulars in the life of its author, which have been hinted at above. It is principally devoted to a consideration of the subject of immortality, but many valuable thoughts on a variety of other topics are incidentally introduced. To use the language of the American Editor, "It amounts to a spirited contemplation of *Life*, taking the word in its deepest signification." I had marked a number of brilliant passages for quotation, but I regret that a want of time and space should prevent my giving them here.*

The new editions of the poems of Dr.—No! of Oliver Wendell Holmes, which Messrs. Ticknor and Company announced during the summer, is now passing through the press. The spicy contents of the former editions are to be enriched in this by the addition of many occasional poems which have only enjoyed a fleeting popularity in the newspapers, and also of several which have never before appeared.

I wish that it were to contain an autumn hymn written several years since for a festive occasion, but report says that there is no copy of it extant, so that it is out of the question. I quote a single stanza of it, from memory, and I know of nothing more highly poetical.

"No more for us the flowerets bloom,
The woods are dry and sore,
And autumn folds her jewelled arms
Around the dying year."

The poetic fancy and wit of Holmes are too universally acknowledged to need any introduction or complimentary notice. The volume will be printed in the chaste style which characterizes all of Ticknor and Company's publications, and will appear during the month of October, when all who make any pretensions to taste will doubtless judge for themselves.

Messrs. TICKNOR & COMPANY have published within a few days Mr. Perley Poore's "Rise and Fall of Louis Philippe," and a new and complete edition of Tennyson's Poems, both of which have been several times spoken of in the Literary World while they were in the press. The former received a deservedly favorable critical notice, in that Journal, about a fortnight since, and is rapidly attaining a wide-spread popularity. The new edition of Tennyson, in two volumes, 12mo., includes his recently published poem, the "Princess," with all of his shorter poems, which have been printed in the former editions.

Now the rest of the acts of the book men in Boston, and all that they are about to do, are they not faithfully chronicled in the Literary World newspaper of the city of New York?

C. B. F.

* An extract from Euthanasia, already in type, has been unavoidably omitted in this week's paper.

Poetry.

For the "Literary World."

LOVE AT THE FEET OF DEATH.

A STUDY FOR A PAINTING.

"I could not point love as a careless boy,
That passionate divinity, whose life
Is of such deep and intense feeling."

BACCHUS AND ARIADNE.

Love bendeth at the feet of Death—the king
Of the dark sceptre and the bony hand
Sits throned in life's great temple, and the wing
Of his last angel, shadows like a wand
The golden sceptres shivered at his feet,
From the high hands that held them long ago,
And downward on the suppliant, like the beat
Of the red lightning, falls the horrid glow,
From the set eyes beneath his fleshless brow.
Never have they been wet with human tears,
But ever glaring, as they lighten now
On human love, bending beneath its fears.

And low before him, with her heavy hair
Sweeping his footstool, and her snowy arms
Clasped round the feet so ghastly and so bare,
Is Love, the suppliant; pleading for the forms
That die in youth and loveliness, and pass
To the damp graveyard and its lonely close
While yet the hues are bright in pleasure's
glass,
And the dew-drop yet lingers on the rose.
So has the group remained for years and years,
That gaunt, stern monarch with the lightning
eye,
And Love, the beautiful, pleading in tears
For the loved spirits that grow dim and die.

HENRY MORFORD.

BERZELIUS.

From the London Athenæum.

On the 7th August, aged 69, died the eminent Swedish chemist, Berzelius. In a century which has produced a greater number of distinguished chemists than perhaps of any other class of men of science, Berzelius stood out as a star of the first magnitude. To him more than to any other man belongs the honor of applying the great principles which had been established by Dalton, Davy, Wollaston, Gay-Lussac, and himself, in inorganic chemistry, to unfolding the laws which regulate the combinations forming the structures of the animal and vegetable kingdoms.

Berzelius was born in the village of Väversunda, in the canonry of Linköping, in Ostgothland, on the 29th of August, 1779,—not at Linköping on the 20th of August, as is often erroneously stated in the many notices of him. His father kept the parish school in the village where young Berzelius was born, and there he appears to have received his early education. At the age of seventeen he commenced his studies at the University of Upsala, hoping to qualify himself for the medical profession.

In the year 1798 Berzelius passed his philosophical examination as preparatory to the final one for M.D. At this time he left the University; and in 1799 we find him assistant to a Dr. Hedin, a superintendent physician of the mineral waters of Medevi. The composition of these waters attracted the attention of Berzelius, and his first published essay was a dissertation in conjunction with Ekeberg on the mineral waters of Medevi. He underwent the examination for a license to practise medicine in 1801, and graduated at Upsal on the 24th May, 1804. On leaving Upsal, Berzelius repaired to Stockholm; where he became assistant to Andrew Sparrman, who sailed with Cook in one of his voyages round the world, and was then professor

there of medicine, botany, and chemical pharmacy. Spaurmann died in 1806,—and Berzelius by his inaugural dissertation on galvanism and other papers had already obtained for himself a sufficient degree of confidence to be appointed his successor. Although this chair embraced a very wide range of subjects, as was frequently the case with Swedish chairs at that time, Berzelius more especially devoted himself to chemistry. At first he was not more successful in teaching chemistry than his predecessors; but having received a hint from Dr. Marcet of London that chemical lectures should be illustrated by experiments, he adopted this plan, and likewise abandoned the old practice of reading lectures. He used to express himself very strongly on the inutility of merely reading lectures. Although he first adopted Dr. Marcet's experiments in his class-room, he soon so far improved upon these that his own became a model for the chemical class-rooms of Europe.

During the early period of his residence at Stockholm he practised the profession of medicine, and in 1807 was mainly instrumental in forming the Medical Society of that capital. In 1810 he was made President of the Royal Academy of Sciences at Stockholm; and in the same year received the appointment of Assessor of the Medical College, and was made a member of the Royal Sanitary Board. At this time, though scarcely more than thirty years of age, he had obtained great reputation as a chemist. He had published a work on animal chemistry containing many original investigations on the fluids of the animal body; and which was subsequently translated—as, indeed, have been most of his works—into almost every language of Europe. In conjunction with Hisinger, he commenced, in 1806, the publication of a periodical work entitled "*Afhandlingar i Fysik, Keim, och Mineralogi*,"—which contained a series of papers by himself, constituting some of the most valuable contributions that had yet been made to analytical chemistry. His labors were regarded as of so much importance by the Royal Academy of Stockholm, that that body decreed him, in 1811, 200 dollars yearly for his chemical researches. In 1812, Berzelius visited England, where he was most cordially received. In that year he communicated, through Dr. Marcet, a valuable paper to the Medico-Chirurgical Society of London "*On the Composition of the Animal Fluids*." In 1818 he visited France and Germany—countries in which he was better known than in Great Britain, as most of his papers and works were published in the languages of those countries as well as in that of Sweden. In the same year he was appointed Secretary to the Academy of Sciences—a post which he held till his death. In 1831 he was allowed to retire from the active duties of his professorship at the Caroline Institute, but he still held the title of honorary professor. Up to this time he had resided in apartments provided for him at the building occupied by the Academy of Sciences,—where, on the same floor, he had his study and laboratory, so that he could with little difficulty pass from his desk to his crucible, and husband his time to the greatest possible extent. He now, however, moved to a house of his own,—and in 1835 married a daughter of the town-councillor (*Staats-rathe*) Poppus. In 1837 he received the Great Gold Medal of the Royal Academy of Stockholm,—and in 1840 the Diet of Sweden voted him a pension of 2,000 dollars per annum. The scientific societies

of Europe and America contended for the honor of enrolling his name amongst their members,—and with eighty-eight of these bodies it was connected. Nor was his sovereign, Charles John, behindhand in recognising the most distinguished of his adopted countrymen. In 1815 Berzelius was made a Knight, and in 1821 a Knight Commander, of the Order of Vasa. In 1829 he received the Grand Cross, and in 1835 was made a Baron. The intelligence of this honor was conveyed to Berzelius by the hand of the King; who wrote himself a letter intimating his deep sense of the merits of the philosopher, and expressing a hope that in this nomination the world would recognise a homage paid to the man who had consecrated his life to those useful researches which had been already recognised by Europe, and which it was the glory of Sweden to be able to appropriate as the patrimony of one of her children. This letter was sent to Berzelius on his wedding-day. How few men of science have married with a patent of nobility on the breakfast table! Sweden had, however, yet one more ovation for her beloved son. In 1843 he had been a quarter of a century Secretary to the Academy, and on this occasion a festival was given in his honor. The Crown-Prince was in the chair,—and a portrait of the chemist painted by Lieut.-Col. Lodemark was presented to the Academy.

In addition to the works already mentioned, he published a "*Manual of Chemistry*," which went through several editions, that of 1841 consisting of 10 volumes,—and, we believe, another larger edition has since been published. In 1822 he commenced the publication of an Annual Report on the Progress of the Physical Sciences, which has been published every year to the present time.

The name of Berzelius has been too intimately connected with the history of chemistry for the last forty years for us in this slight sketch to give an adequate idea of the influence which his discoveries and generalizations have exerted upon the science. To him it is indebted for the discovery of several new elementary bodies,—more especially selenium, morium, and cerium. He first demonstrated the acid nature of silica, and was thus enabled to throw light on the composition of a series of interesting mineral compounds of silica with the metallic oxides. This subsequently led to a whole re-arrangement of mineral bodies, and contributed greatly to the advance of mineralogy. His discovery of selenium led him to investigate its various compounds and compare them with the sulphurets. These investigations again resulted in his generalizations on the nature of the sulphur salts, and a new classification of the various salts. Subsequently, he investigated the compounds of fluorine, and arrived at some of the most important and valuable results that have yet been obtained by the analytical chemist.

Whilst Berzelius was writing the first edition of his "*Manual of Chemistry*," Dalton had promulgated his idea of the atomic constitution of matter, and Davy had made his great discovery of the metallic bases of the alkalis. These directed his attention to the laws of combination. He was led to institute researches with the most scrupulous care into the combining proportions of the various elements, giving to each its correct number, and was enabled to obtain results perfectly harmonious with theoretical calculations made on Dalton's laws. He was enabled to extend Dalton's law that one atom of one body unites with one, two, or three, &c., atoms of another

body, and showed that two atoms would unite with three and five. He also pointed out the great fact, that two compounds which contain the same electro-negative body always combine in such proportions that the electro-negative element of one is a multiple by a whole number of the same element of the other. He not only gave to the elementary bodies their combining numbers, but introduced the system of symbols, by which chemical labor has been so greatly facilitated. Till the time of Berzelius, organic chemistry was a waste, with here and there an attempt to explain the phenomena of living beings upon chemical principles,—and which from the entire want of experimental foundation was even worse than useless. The compounds found in plants and animals were not supposed to come within the category to which the laws of combination applied. Berzelius was the first to show that these laws could be applied to animal and vegetable products; and in so doing, he opened the way for the discoveries of Mulder, Liebig, Dumas, Boussingault, and others.

As a skilful manipulator, Berzelius has had few equals in the history of chemistry. To this we are indebted for the immense variety, number, and success of his analyses. Many of the analytical processes in use at the present time have had their origin with him.

The personal appearance of Berzelius was that of a strong, healthy man, with nothing in his habits or manners to impress a stranger with a sense of his powers. A chemist who visited him says, "He has nothing of pretence, reserve, or singularity about him; so that his plainness drew from a fellow-traveller of mine, whom he allowed me to introduce to him, the observation, 'I would never have thought him the great man he is said to be.'" His attention to strangers was very great,—especially to those who took an interest in chemistry. With these he would frequently spend hours in his laboratory, explaining his methods of working,—and on their departure, he left the impression that he was the honored party. He was an early riser,—and gave the first part of the day to his most important work, whatever that might be. He seldom either wrote or experimented in the evening, leaving that part of the day for reading and social relaxation. He had no particular times for writing or experimenting; when he had a work to finish he would write sometimes for months without performing an experiment,—but if anything of importance occurred to him during his writing requiring further investigation, he would at once give up the pen and work perhaps for weeks in his laboratory. Few men were more beloved in the city of Stockholm than Berzelius.

Were the merits of this great chemist less we might not be able to afford to hint at any defects. But regarding him at a distance, he appears to us to have carried his caution beyond the requirements of scientific research. His feelings were conservative, and though constantly going forward to the new he still clung with tenacity to the old. He was almost the last chemist of eminence that admitted Davy's theory of the elementary nature of chlorine. Even after envy and prejudice had given up their opposition, the caution of Berzelius withheld assent. In the recent advances of organic chemistry, also, and more especially in its applications to the physiology of plants and animals, Berzelius has looked on with the eye of a critic, and withheld to the last his adhesion to some of the advanced positions of this department of the science.

Miscellany.

[The following Translation of "The Grave of Tegnér," is from the "Specimens of Swedish and German Poetry," rendered in English verse, by J. E. D. BETHUNE. We find it in the London Literary Gazette.]

THE GRAVE.

Whose grave is this? the mould so freshly thrown
Speaks it new opened: o'er the uncovered ground
The carpet of the Spring is not yet grown,
Like a seamed scar upon a closing wound.

A stranger's from the land of frost and snow;
A blue-eyed youthful mother's, who in vain
Came here, to drink the healing gales which blow
In southern skies, but ne'er went home again.

Poor child! from kindred and from friends removed,
A lily in a distant garden dying,
Untimely snatched in twain! and those she loved
Know scarcely where their withered flower is lying.

Her northern heart loved well its mother earth,
The valleys where she drew her earliest breath;
Her eyes turned ever to its place of birth,
And sought the Pole-star till it closed in death.

So young, so fair, so formed for earthly bliss,
Now only dust, and in a foreign land;
Not even allowed in death once more to kiss
A mother's lip, to press a father's hand.

'Tis said, within the royal halls they live
Of our great countryman, the Northern King:
He loves and honors them, and fain would give
Some comfort to the parents sorrowing.

Who can give comfort? neither kings nor slaves,
Thou mother heart! to sorrow such as thine;
Which, like the quenchless lamp in Roman graves,
Burns undiscovered in its secret shrine.

Bind a green wreath, upon her grave to lay,
From the majestic oaks, which round us stand;
She knows the leaves, and, in a happier day,
Has twined such garlands in her fatherland.

Not so; of lilies will I bind the wreath,
White as the snow upon her mountain home;
White as the marble of her cheek in death;
White is death's hue, green speaks of hope to come.

Yes! green belongs to hope; let both unite;
A Christian mourner cannot know despair;
The green oak garland and the chaplet white
Lay side by side. How sad, and yet how fair!

Come, southern flowers, and twine above her grave
Emblems of pity, which to grief are dear;
Stand here, wild briar! and thy pale blossoms wave;
Forget me not! stand thou and sorrow here.

Ye winds of Heaven, breathe a gentle sigh
Above the tomb, where now she rests from pain;
And let the murmuring billows softly die,
Upon the shore they bore her to in vain.

ACOUSTIC TELEGRAPH IN AFRICA.—In the recently published account by Capt. Allen of the voyage of the British ship *Wilberforce* up the Niger, we find the following notice of a musical telegraph used by the natives. It is well known that musical sounds may be heard at greater distances than those which are only loud:

"As we had often heard that the natives could hold musical dialogues even at great distances, by means of little gourd flutes, we prevailed on them to separate, while by an interpreter one of them was desired to convey certain sentences to those at a distance. To our surprise we found, on cross-examination, that everything had been perfectly understood. They said they could communicate with one another, even at the distance of some miles, where the locality was favorable to the resonance of the sounds. This facility of musical correspondence is not confined to these people alone, since that distinguished traveller, the late Mr. Bowditch, mentions a similar practice among the Ashantees, and he was also informed of its existence in the district of Acera. That the Cameroons people have also tutored their hearing with a similar result, we had an instance in the pilot Glasgow. He was in Capt. Allen's cabin one day, answering some queries relating to the river;

suddenly he became totally abstracted, and remained for a while in the attitude of listening. On being taxed with inattention, he said, 'You no hear my son speak?' As we had heard no voice, he was asked how he knew it. He said, 'Drum speak me, tell me come up deck.' This seemed to be very singular, so Captain Allen desired him to remain below, and privately sent several messages to the performer in the boat alongside, who executed them by a variety of taps on his wooden drum; and these Glasgow interpreted in a way that left no doubt of his having understood perfectly all that the "drum spoke." He also said they could communicate by this means at very great distances by the 'war drum,' which is kept in every village to give and repeat these signals; so that there is intimation of danger long before the enemy can attack them. We are often surprised to find the sound of the trumpet so well understood in our military evolutions; but how far short that falls of the result arrived at by these untutored savages.

"This method of communication is no doubt employed by slave dealers, to give notice of the movements of our cruisers."

WALHALLA.—The bust of Martin Luther has at length been admitted into the Walhalla at Copenhagen. The place of honor assigned to it is between Holbein and Copernicus.

SHAKESPEARE.—The ancient muster-roll recently discovered at the Chapter-house, which was asserted to contain new information respecting the family of Shakspeare, has been examined by Mr. Halliwell. It appears that the only entry in it of interest is that of the name of John Hathaway, of Shottory, who was perhaps the poet's grandfather. The name of Shakspeare occurs several times, but in no instance in connexion with the family who settled at Stratford-on-Avon. We may therefore conclude, with some degree of probability, that in the time of Henry the Eighth, the date of the roll, the ancestors of the great dramatist had not settled in that town.

ATMOSPHERIC PHENOMENON.—We have received a letter from St. Petersburg which contains the following fact:—"When the cholera broke out here, the atmosphere was so charged that the electric machines would not emit any sparks, and a magnetic needle which generally raises twelve pounds of iron, could with difficulty raise four pounds weight. To-day, the 13th, the atmosphere is so far improved that the magnetic needle will raise eight pounds weight." Accounts from another quarter—namely, the official medical report, say that the cholera began to decline in the city on that day.—*Lond. Lit. Gaz.*

FALL OF A MOUNTAIN.—The rock known by the name of the Dent de Naye, which was 7000 feet high, fell on the 3d instant into the valley of Montreux (Vaud), Switzerland, and destroyed seven houses and all the persons in them. It is said that upwards of 2000 head of cattle have been killed in the fields.—*Globe.*

GERMAN PRESS.—Voss of Dusseldorf, and D'Oench of Liegnitz, have summoned all the master printers to a general meeting at Leipzig, on the 17th. The object is the discussion for fixing a uniform standard throughout Germany for the rate of wages, as well as for

printing both for the government and the public. The meeting is to take place at the Booksellers' Bourse, and all master printers who are prevented from attending, are to specify the same in writing, and state whether they will subscribe to the resolutions; if not, they will be excluded from the general union.

WEST PRUSSIAN UNIVERSITIES.—The principal professors having rejected Government interference, have proceeded to discuss the reform of the scholastic system, and determined that all plans of public instruction, from the lowest charity school to the principal university, must form an organic whole; that this general system must emanate from the highest authority, but that the selection of tutors, &c., as well as the payment of their stipends, must be left to the option of the parish or district in which the school is situated. That in order that the children of indigent persons may not be excluded from the higher seminaries, the payment shall not, as heretofore, be stated, but shall vary according to the resources of the parents. That a university education shall no longer be deemed indispensable to the admission into the higher offices either of church or state, but that every competent person, whether educated by a private tutor, in a private school, or otherwise, shall be eligible. These various propositions the heads of towns have resolved to incorporate in an address, which is to be submitted to the German Parliament.

ACADEMY OF NEUFCHÂTEL.—The abolition of this beacon of learning in Switzerland is most keenly felt and deplored there, and the more so, because the radical regiment of the Vaudois have likewise destroyed the academy of Lausanne, turning the professors out of doors, as they have now also done to the thirty professors of Neufchâtel!

INTELLIGENCE OF THE IRISH.—A notion is pretty general in Great Britain that the Irish poor are exceedingly ignorant; but this is by no means the case. If elementary knowledge, or being able to read, write, and perform arithmetical operations, be regarded education, it is more generally diffused in Ireland than in England. "Where in England," asks Mr. Bicheno, in his report on Poor Laws, "could the ordnance surveyors find persons among the lowest class to calculate the sides and areas of their triangles, at a halfpenny a triangle, as they do in Ireland, aye and abundance of them?"—*M'Culloch.*

Rev. Mr. Prentiss, of New Bedford, has been elected to the Professorship of Natural and Revealed Religion in Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine.

Rev. Nathaniel Kendrick, D. D., late President of Madison University, died at Hamilton last Monday week. Dr. Kendrick had been confined by sickness for nearly two years past, and had resigned his office in consequence.

Rev. Dr. Bacon will deliver the address before the New Haven Agricultural Society at its next Fair on the 27th and 28th inst.

Rev. Worthington Smith, D. D., of St. Albans, has been unanimously elected President of the University of Vermont, President Wheeler having resigned.

William Howitt has received his certificate from the Court of Bankruptcy. His debts amounted to upwards of three thousand pounds. His Journal has passed into other hands, neither Howitt nor his wife having any further connexion with it.

Professor Loomis, of the University of the City of New York, has accepted the call to the chair of Natural Philosophy, at Princeton College, and will enter upon the duties of the station at an early day.

There were 34 graduates at Bowdoin College commencement, Maine, last week. The Honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred upon Rev. Ephraim Peabody, Boston; Rev. John S. Albro, Cambridge; Rev. John Dempster, Concord, N. H.

Recent Publications.

Historical and Miscellaneous Questions. By Richmal Mangnall. First American from the Eighty-fourth London edition, with large Additions. Adapted for Schools in the United States, by Mrs. Julia Lawrence. New York: D. Appleton & Co. 12mo. pp. 388. 1848.

A book that has already run through eighty-four editions in England has ancestral claims that no publisher can disregard; and if this American scion can prove its descent in the right line, the public will accept it in perfect confidence on the ground of traditional fame, and the more willingly from having enjoyed no small degree of intimacy with its predecessors. We are credibly informed that the work has not only been presented to us without serious mutilation (the omissions consisting of matters "not particularly interesting to young Americans," such as explanations of the English constitution, &c., and things whose interest is principally local), but that many additions have been made which will increase its utility in this country. We particularly refer to the abstract of American History and the section on Architecture, which were compiled by the American editor from the best authorities, and which much enhance the value of the book. Traces of editorial care and revision are also evident throughout other portions; and thus enlarged and improved by a lady experienced in tuition, and opportunely published just as the schools are commencing their winter sessions, it will no doubt be brought extensively into use.

Popular as this work has evidently been, still it seems to us that a complete remodelling of its form would have contributed to enlarge the sphere of its utility, and we throw out the hint as worthy of consideration in future editions. At present the questions are so intermingled with the answers as to form one confused mass; there is no distinction made either by the use of different type or by an arrangement in separate paragraphs: but question and answer are so inextricably involved that on casually opening the book, it has the appearance of a continuous dissertation instead of the catechetical form. By putting the questions either at the foot of the page or the end of the sections, and throwing the answers into a connected narrative shape, this motley appearance would be remedied, while all the advantages of the interrogative plan, which in our opinion are partially sacrificed under the present arrangement, would be retained. At any rate, let there be some marked typographical distinction made between question and answer; that is a wretched economy which, to save the outlay of a few additional dollars, refuses to adopt that order, method, and symmetry of appearance on which much of the utility of a book depends.

Some curiously erroneous interpretations have crept in, in the page or two of explanation of

Latin phrases; the *argumentum ad hominem*, however disagreeable, is not always "a convincing argument" any more than the *argumentum ad ignorantiam* is "a foolish argument;" nor does *nolens volens* mean simply "without consent."

The questions on common subjects will be found very useful, and this portion might be enlarged to advantage. The sections on Architecture and Heraldry are illustrated by many engravings.

Cottages and Cottage Life. By C.W. Elliott. Cincinnati: H. W. Derby & Co. New York: A. S. Barnes & Co. 1 vol. Svo.

THE public were startled the other day by a newspaper account of the exports of Cincinnati rivaling those of New York; the whole statement seeming incredible from its apparent extravagance. The sphere is more contracted, but the circumstance is not less significant of progress that an elegant illustrated work on landscape gardening and domestic architecture should be published in a town which was cut out of the woods fifty years since. The stumps of primeval forests are still standing in some of the yards and enclosures of Cincinnati; and yet here we have "plans for country houses with directions for building and improving; for the laying out and embellishing of grounds, &c., &c." Talk as you will of French cookery, pictures, and statuary—landscape gardening is the last and highest evidence of civilization which lies in coming back to the starting point—Nature.

There are some very clever and easy sketches of American Home life embodied in this volume, which is executed in a style highly creditable to the publishers. Besides the general taste which pervades them, Mr. Elliott's plans are marked by another feature which has our warm approval. The long porch, piazza, veranda—or whatever people choose to call it, is an appendage to all of them. This convenience is to an American country-house what the hall is to an English dwelling in their less genial climate—the place for the half out of door exercise of the aged in the winter—the racing ground of children in wet weather—the newspaper lounge's morning smokeoir—the lady's afternoon sewing escape from the dining-room to fresh air and her pattern collar—the novel-reader's paradise upon the oaken settee when children are at school. The American veranda is all of these, and a country house without one is shorn of half its claims to national domesticity.

We hope that Mr. Elliott's book may have a wide circulation in the west. Taste, not reason, is the true civilizer of mankind.

C. Julius Caesar's Commentaries on the Gallic War. With English Notes, Critical and Explanatory, a Lexicon, Indexes, &c. By Rev. J. A. Spencer, A.M. New York: D. Appleton & Co., 200 Broadway. 12mo. pp. 404. 1848.

It is now many weeks that this book has been upon our table, but by some oversight having missed its turn, it has been treated with a neglect of which it is by no means deserving. As it is one of those books which do not spoil by keeping, we feel the less compunction for our delay; and even if after this lapse of time we have not been able to bestow upon it that searching examination to which a new edition of a classic author should be submitted, still we think that we may with confidence pronounce upon the general merits, and recommend the book as worthy the attention of teachers who may be arranging their scheme of studies for the winter. The text is that of Oudendorp, occasionally amended by the adoption in doubtful cases of the readings of Achaintre and Lemaire, Oberlin, Schneider, and Giani. The notes (which are placed by themselves after the text) have been compiled with much care from the best sources, with such further explanations as the author's experience in teaching had shown to be necessary: they are brief, but to the point, and are

chiefly confined to the solution of the rendering of difficult passages and grammatical difficulties. A synopsis of the contents is prefixed to the notes of each book; and a Latin-English Lexicon, and a Historical and a Geographical Index, which occupy more than a hundred pages, afford all the assistance which is necessary for the interpretation of the text and a knowledge of the locality. There is also a life of Caesar, chiefly taken from Dymock; while a map of Gaul, and some engravings and plans illustrative of the text (as, for instance, in the case of the description of the bridge over the Rhine in the fourth book, which without some such aid is perfectly incomprehensible by the pupil) materially enhance the value of this edition. Mr. Spencer appears to have spared no pains to ensure its completeness and comprehensiveness; so as to supply all the wants of the youthful student, without enfeebling his energies by too much help; and the skill and tact which have characterized his previous editorial efforts have been displayed to no less advantage in this edition of one of the most favorite classic authors.

Ovid is generally the next book put into a boy's hand after Caesar, and behold a new edition of the *Metamorphoses*, by N. C. Brooks, A.M., is already before us; we shall endeavor to give an account of it in next week's paper.

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Having been compelled, in many instances, to glean the titles from Advertisements in the daily papers, this list has not been as full and perfect in every particular as it is our desire to make it. Henceforth, if publishers, immediately upon the issue of any work, will forward to us a copy of the title-page and the price, marked "Literary World's weekly list," all deficiencies of this kind will be remedied.

April 22.

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CHAMPLIN (J. T.)—Select Popular Orations of Demosthenes, with Notes and a Chronological Table, by J. T. Champlin, Professor of Greek and Latin in Waterville College. (Boston: James Munroe & Co.)

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